

ABSTRACT

5 The invention relates generally to compositions of and
methods for obtaining opioid receptor polypeptides. The
invention relates as well to polynucleotides encoding opioid
receptor polypeptides, the recombinant vectors carrying those
sequences, the recombinant host cells including either the
sequences or vectors, and recombinant opioid receptor
polypeptides. By way of example, the invention discloses the
10 cloning and functional expression of at least three different
opioid receptor polypeptides. The invention includes as well,
methods for using the isolated, recombinant receptor polypeptides
in assays designed to select and improve substances capable of
interacting with opioid receptor polypeptides for use in
15 diagnostic, drug design and therapeutic applications.